

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-14, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 5 and 9, as specified in the following listing of claims.

The listing of claims given below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently amended) ~~The interface circuit as claimed in claim 4,~~ An interface circuit for operating a capacitive load from a mains supply circuit, the interface circuit comprising:
a first transistor coupled across an input of the load and operable to activate and thereby effectively short-circuit a supply input of the load, wherein the first transistor includes a base; and
a second transistor coupled to the base of the first transistor, and operable to selectively deactivate the first transistor, wherein the base of the second transistor includes a base that is coupled is connected to a respective mains-side input of a rectifier via a first and a second resistor.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) ~~The interface circuit as claimed in claim 6,~~ An interface circuit for operating a capacitive load from a mains supply circuit, the interface circuit comprising:
a first transistor coupled across an input of the load and operable to activate and thereby effectively short-circuit a supply input of the load, wherein the first transistor includes a base;
a second transistor coupled to the base of the first transistor, and operable to selectively deactivate the first transistor, wherein the second transistor includes a base that is coupled to a respective mains-side input of a rectifier via a first and a second resistor; and
a control circuit operable to evaluate a signal generated by the mains supply circuit to generate a signal for controlling power consumption of the load, wherein the control circuit has includes a parallel circuit, a smoothing capacitor, a fourth resistor, and a fifth resistor, wherein the a parallel circuit comprising is a series circuit comprising a third resistor and a third transistor, the third transistor including a base of which is connected to the base of the first transistor, a smoothing capacitor and a fourth resistor, the parallel circuit being connected in series with a the fifth resistor, wherein a tap of the control signal for controlling the control of the power consumption of the load being is provided between the fourth resistor and the fifth resistor.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)